


F. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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- Ken Owen, Director of Christian Community Concerns, read a letter (filed) related to the separation of church and state and the use of "Happy Holidays" in lieu of "Merry Christmas". He stated that Christian Community Concerns is launching a *Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign* for the month of December. He provided information from the Alliance Defense Fund and an audio tape of a presentation by Pastor Dale Edwards of Century Assembly Church entitled, "Why Christmas".

Council Member Hansen thanked Mr. Owen for bringing this matter forward. He commented that the Country was founded on religious freedom and he voiced concern about people and groups attempting to force their opinions on others, and in so doing, not allowing individuals to express their own religious beliefs.

Mayor Beckman agreed with Mr. Hansen's statement.

G. COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- None.

H. COMMENTS BY THE CITY MANAGER ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- City Manager King reviewed the following Council accomplishments that took place during 2005:
 - Hired new City Manager;
 - Initiated quarterly review of city utilities;
 - Adopted ordinance ending age discrimination in the City's workforce;
 - Extended a labor agreement with Mid-Managers at no additional cost;
 - Responded effectively to national media attention regarding terrorism;
 - Raised awareness of Lodi Lake water quality issues;
 - Supported non-profit and community events, e.g. Salvation Army, Community Partnership for Families, Rotary 4th of July, etc.;
 - Participated in regional governance issues through the San Joaquin Council of Governments;
 - Reopened the skate park;
 - Settled the Lehman Brothers lawsuit and saved the City \$24 million;
 - Provided stable funding to remediate groundwater contamination;
 - Stabilized the General Fund budget with no further reductions in the General Fund amount;
 - Updated and modernized the City's purchasing ordinance;
 - Initiated the Lodi Budget Finance Committee;
 - First in the County to complete tertiary treatment improvement for wastewater;
 - Completed Kettleman Lane project;
 - Accelerated Lower Sacramento Road project which saved \$500,000;
 - Ensured continued Greyhound bus service in Lodi;
 - Allocated \$725,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds for seven community projects and reallocated \$300,000 in HOME funds for the housing assistance program;
 - Addressed the greenbelt separator issue through the Greenbelt Task Force and 2x2x2 Committee;
 - Adopted federally required Americans with Disability Act Transition Plan;
 - Approved concept of downtown wine tasting rooms; and
 - Appointed a Delta College Task Force to work toward a satellite campus in Lodi.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

Christian Community Concerns

filed 12-7-05
Ken Owens
Item F

December 2005

Dear Lodi City Council Members & Staff:

"for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."(Luke 2:30,32.) K.J.V.

The Christmas story is still the greatest story ever told. To think that the creator of the universe would send heavens' best to redeem mankind is the wonder of wonders. Another story that's almost as amazing as the birth of Jesus is mankind's rejection of the Christmas story. There seems to be an all out attack to rid our country of any mention or public display of Christ in the Christmas story these days. Christmas has historically been the most celebrated holiday in America. However, the myth of the so called "Separation of Church & State" has led to so many misconceptions and controversy that many school administrators and public officials are removing "Christ from Christmas" throughout the land.

Out of concern to not offend shoppers of different beliefs & backgrounds, merchants are replacing the greeting "Merry Christmas" for happy holidays or Seasons greetings.

"THE OPEN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS IS INCREASINGLY ABSENT FROM THE PUBLIC SQUARE."

According to the "Alliance Defense Fund" this was never the intent of our Founding Fathers. They state that the "U.S. Supreme Court has never ruled that the Constitution requires Government officials to censor Christmas cards or displays, eliminate all references to Christmas, or silence those who celebrate Christ's birth."

CCC IS LAUNCHING A KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

The A.C.L.U. and other like minded organizations have been having a field day in bringing law suits against Christmas displays throughout the nation for the last several

years, but that's beginning to change now because the Alliance Defense Fund is showing up at court with their own lawsuits and winning.

WHO IS THE ALLIANCE DEFENSE FUND?

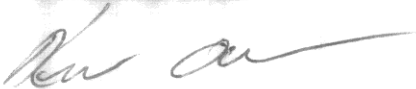
Several years ago five major national ministries came together to form the ADF organization specifically to combat the lies and distortions of the ACLU and other organizations who's goal it is to completely secularize America, and remove Christianity from all public displays from government buildings, and grounds.

They are **FOCUS ON THE FAMILY, CORAL RIDGE MINISTRIES, POINT OF VIEW, LARRY BURKETT, AND CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST.**

It is headed by Alan Sears who was the chief prosecuting attorney under Edwin Meese and the pornography commission several years ago. CCC works with and supports all of these ministries either in finances or other ways.

It is our desire to give you factual, reliable, information in order to equip you to know the truth about what you as a Civic Leader can and cannot do in the area of Separation of Church & State issues.

Merry Christmas

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ken Owen', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ken Owen, Director